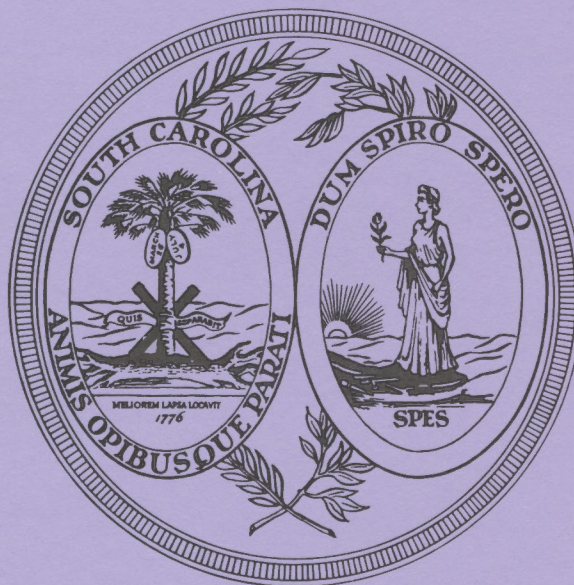


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# SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND



## ANNUAL REPORT 1991-1992

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DONALD GIST, Commissioner

# South Carolina Commission for the Blind

1430 CONFEDERATE AVENUE • COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201 • PHONE 734-7520 • FAX 734-7885

June 30, 1992

The Honorable Carroll A. Campbell, Jr.  
Governor, State of South Carolina  
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Governor Campbell:

It is with great pleasure that I present this year's annual report on the progress and activities of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind. Fiscal year 1991-92 was marked by unparalleled accomplishments for the Commission in the areas of vocational rehabilitation, which resulted in job placements, and in community services, which promoted independent living and dignity.

Upon my arrival at the Commission in 1990, the Agency adopted a new management philosophy that focuses on accountability and true investment of Agency dollars into client services.

With your continued support and that of the General Assembly and the Commission's Governing Board, this Agency now can boast of having created innovative job opportunities for blind and visually impaired South Carolinians in both the public and private sectors.

Our Technical Services Division has a 99 percent placement ratio of blind clients in meaningful employment. This fiscal year we expanded services available on the local level in Spartanburg, Florence and Pickens counties, where the Agency now serves in excess of 700 clients.

I am extremely pleased to announce that the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, once ranked 17th in the nation among separate blind agencies, now ranks first in the nation for the percentage of successful rehabilitations. This has been quite an accomplishment in a short period of time, and it is the result of hard work and a managerial philosophy that we are committed to moving persons off subsistence and into self-sufficiency and independence as taxpaying citizens of our great state.

We also are proud of our Operation SightSaver campaign that was launched in 1992 and will impact thousands of South Carolinians in the battle against needless loss of vision due to diabetes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald Gist  
Commissioner

BOARD:

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# **S.C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND**

**Donald Gist**  
***Commissioner***

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### ***Legislative Compliance***

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind is in compliance with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and all requirements imposed pursuant thereto to the end that no person shall, on the grounds of sex, race, age, color, national origin or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or otherwise subject to discrimination in the provision of any care or service. Any client participant, potential client or interested person who is of an opinion that benefits are provided on a discriminatory basis has the right to file a complaint with the State Agency or Federal Agency or both.

### ***Legal Blindness Qualifications***

1. "Blindness" is defined as the level of central visual acuity, 20/200 or less in the better eye with the best corrective lens, or a disqualifying field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees and which is sufficient to incapacitate him or her for self-support, or an 80 percent loss of visual efficiency resulting from visual impairment in more than one function of the eye, including visual acuity for distance and near visual fields, ocular mobility, and other ocular functions and disturbances.

2. "Severe visual disability" is defined as any progressive pathological condition of the eye or eyes, supported by an acceptable eye examination, which in the opinion of the examiner may or will result in legal blindness within 24 months.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

FY 1991-92 was an exciting year for the South Carolina Commission for the Blind. Foremost among our accomplishments was news from the Rehabilitation Services Administration that we had attained the honor of ranking number one in the nation for the percentage of blind and severely visually impaired persons successfully rehabilitated during federal fiscal year 1990-91.

Among our accomplishments was implementation of the Shoppervision Program in which more than 200 grocery outlets and the Parisian Department Store offer low vision aids for shoppers who have difficulty

reading labels and price stickers. Shoppervision is a cooperative effort between the Commission and the Southern Bell Pioneers. The Telephone Pioneers supplied each participating store with magnifiers which patrons may obtain at customer service centers. The Commission provided the Shoppervision logo stickers that appear on the doors of participating stores and the plastic containers for storage of the magnifiers.

In keeping with Commissioner Gist's philosophy of decentralizing services and making them more accessible to areas outside the Greater Columbia environ, the Commission now offers day programs featuring adjustment to blindness, independent living skills and orientation and mobility training in the Florence District Office. The office, which was moved to new headquarters to accommodate the additional services and subsequent increase in demand, also houses a low vision clinic to help visually impaired persons maximize their remaining vision through the use of magnifiers, glasses and other aids.

With the expanded services in Florence, that county now joins Spartanburg in featuring a mini center concept for training. This is particularly important for individuals who do not wish to leave home for an extended period in order to receive training. The average stay at the Agency's Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center in Columbia is 18 weeks, and there is a two-month waiting list to enter the program at this domicile facility. The Commission's Spartanburg Mini Center began operating last year and is located on the grounds of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind.

Automating the Commission's offices necessitated training our employees. We are proud to say that our Technical Services Division provided in-house computer training for staff, while maintaining a training schedule for clients learning to utilize highly technical adaptive equipment.

The Commission for the Blind is in the forefront of monitoring implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In response to questions surrounding implementation and interpretation of the law, the Agency sponsored an ADA conference in Greenville.

Recognizing the advent of new occupational opportunities opened by the ADA, the Agency now boasts of a state of the art Radio Broadcast Training facility. After participants complete the training, our Employment Consultants will seek job placements in media outlets. This will increase the employment marketability of blind and visually impaired clients.



## Finance Division

During fiscal year 1991-92, Commissioner Gist reorganized the Finance Division creating four distinct units: Budgeting, Purchasing, Accounting and Property Management. The primary goal of this department is to ensure fiscal accountability to state and federal authorities as well as to the general public. Another goal is to provide all necessary administrative support to the direct services programs.

The newly centralized Purchasing Unit processed approximately 5,000 purchase authorizations while the field staff generated another 9,000 or more for medical, educational and other direct client services. The Accounting Unit, using BARS (Basic Accounting and Reporting System) software, processed more than 14,000 disbursement vouchers for payments to private vendors, state entities and employees. Accounting also encumbered the purchase authorization amounts to provide a more accurate picture of the Agency's financial position on any given report. Accounting processed in excess of 14,000 encumbrances.

## Division of Human Resources

The Division of Human Resources plans, administers and formulates policy direction for human resource management and development programs and provides technical advice and support to staff in implementing these programs.

During FY 1991-92, the Division of Human Resources provided professional and technical support to Commission staff by coordinating and implementing the following: recruitment of new staff; processing of applications for vacancies; monitoring of the Affirmative Action Program; processing payroll and payroll changes; automating the payroll; providing payroll/budget management reports; responding to employment and salary verifications; processing state retirement forms and dual employment requests; and monitoring the Employee Performance Management System, the Grievance and Appeal Program and the Discipline Program. Additionally this Division maintained employee personnel records; coordinated the Employee Identification Card Program; coordinated the State Group Health, Life and Dental Insurance Programs; administered the Attendance and Leave Program; monitored Workers' Compensation claims; coordinated the Employee State Service Award Program; revitalized the Employee Wellness Program; monitored Fair Labor Standards Act compliance; and provided staff development programs under the In-service Training Grant of the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

In-service programs provided were: Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology of the Eye; Employee Performance Management System; New Employee Orientation; Management Control System training for counselors and supervisors; Leadership Development Training; and a variety of individual training programs specific to rehabilitation professionals.

The Division of Human Resources continued its classification and compensation study of agency positions. This study, continued from the previous fiscal year, resulted in the upward mobility of 28 percent of the staff.

### Employment and Training Division

Providing appropriate job training programs for South Carolina's employable blind population was the primary mission of the Employment and Training Division staff this fiscal year. To combat the high rates of unemployment among the employable blind, SCCB employment consultants have perfected a system using the South Carolina Occupations Information System (SCOIS). This system generates computerized information from the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, thereby providing vocational rehabilitation counselors across the state with local and statewide information pertaining to job vacancies and training programs.

Employment consultants were directly responsible for implementing a total 28 on-the-job training (OJT) programs, during this fiscal year. Of the 28 blind and severely visually impaired clients, 20 were successfully placed on jobs at designated OJT sites or found employment elsewhere. Through a special project with NCNB, presently known as Nations Bank, an additional four clients were given OJT experience.

The Commission's Employment Advisory Council (EAC) is a 34-member consortium of the state's private and public employers who have joined forces with the South Carolina Commission for the Blind to address the high jobless rate among the employable blind. Employment consultants have worked diligently to get the EAC more involved in pre-job placement activities. These pre-job placement activities include: mock interviews with clients, providing job leads and conducting regularly scheduled awareness seminars to educate other employers about the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities.

The Employment and Training Division has completed a statewide Job Network Bank. Employment consultants are primarily responsible for maintaining and updating information for the Job Bank. The purpose of the Job Bank is to match qualified applicants for jobs that have been identified



by our Employment Advisory Council members. The majority of applicants recruited by EAC members have either entry level computer skills or an advanced communications skills background.

### Technical Services Division

The Technical Services Division, which complements the Vocational Rehabilitation Division, serves as a technological resource and assists with work place modifications and equipment needs for blind and/or visually impaired individuals to perform a specific job-related function. The division provides training to enable clients to use state of the art assistive devices in the employment arena. The devices include computers with speech capabilities so that blind individuals can transcribe braille into print and print into braille, and closed circuit televisions which electronically magnify information. The Technical Services Division works closely with state and federal agencies and the private sector to secure jobs for blind and severely visually impaired persons.

During the 1991-92 fiscal year, 14 clients and 10 high school students received instruction in the use of assistive devices and personal computers. 12 clients were gainfully employed due to the highly specialized Assistive Technology Training Program.

The Technical Services Division also conducted 51 Office Automation classes for agency staff. The classes consisted of an unduplicated head count of 58 and a total of 172 persons trained during 2,064 contact hours of instruction. These contact hours consisted of 420 hours in personal computer operation, 696 hours in spreadsheets, and 948 hours in word processing.

### **DIVISION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

The Division of Public Affairs is comprised of the Office of Public Information, the Educational Radio for the Blind Network, Volunteer Services, Staff Development and Training (as it pertains to blindness) and the Media Center, the division's newest addition. These departments function collectively as a team to promote the immediate dissemination of all South Carolina Commission for the Blind program and service information to our clients as well as to the general public through: articles, brochures, news releases, public service announcements, the scheduling of television/radio appearances, and other conventional methods.

## Office of Public Information

The Office of Public Information promotes agency programs and services through the development of news releases/articles, videotapes, public service announcements, photographs, newsletters, brochures and the scheduling of television and radio interviews, etc.

The office responds to inquiries from the general public and the media and oversees the release of agency information as set forth under the State Freedom of Information Act while monitoring compliance with federal confidentiality laws.

In addition, the office works closely with the Commissioner and agency staff to keep abreast of new or expanded initiatives within the Agency and determine the most effective method of informing clients, potential clients and the public at-large.

## Educational Radio for the Blind

The Educational Radio for the Blind Network provides 3,200 blind South Carolinians access to daily newspapers, weekly and monthly magazines, and other printed material through radio receivers on loan to the clients. The special radios are tuned to a subchannel of the South Carolina Educational Radio station nearest the listener. The subchannel carries the 126 hours of programming produced each week by volunteer readers and Educational Radio for the Blind staff.

In March of this year, Educational Radio for the Blind moved into state of the art studios within the Commission's Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center. The new facility will house the nation's first radio broadcast training program designed exclusively for blind and visually impaired persons. The program will feature high-tech adaptive equipment so that broadcast production can be accomplished using the medium specific to the client in training. For example, Associated Press wire copy can be retrieved via voice activated computer (so that the blind or visually impaired client can hear what sighted persons see on the computer monitor), on a braille printer, or in large print. The program, in conjunction with the Employment and Training Division, will explore conventional as well as alternative employment opportunities associated with the broadcast industry.



## Volunteer Services

The Volunteer Services Program assigns volunteers to a variety of settings within the agency; however, the majority assist Educational Radio Staff in reading print material for broadcast over the network. Volunteers also help with braille production, parent conferences and other special projects. In FY 1991-92 volunteers gave 7,115 hours to the South Carolina Commission for the Blind equal to a value of \$54,259.

## Staff Development and Training

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind Staff Development and Training component trains Agency employees in matters pertaining to blindness (sighted guide training; assistance to a blind person, yet enabling him or her to retain independence; social/psychological aspects of blindness; diseases of the eye; etc.). As a community resource, Staff Development and Training conducts workshops for other agencies, organizations, hospitals and schools.

## Media Center

The Media Center is a production center for braille, tape or large print material for use by legally blind residents of South Carolina and is an on-site library for client use. Materials are produced for SCCB clients, staff members and for community use (i.e., menus, information for service clubs, etc.).

The Media Center assists in the location, distribution and storage of textbooks and tangible aids for the South Carolina Department of Education, Programs for the Handicapped. The librarian also serves as Agency liaison with the South Carolina State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and coordinates the in-state volunteer tape program.

Requests for materials during fiscal year 1991-92 were as follows:

Braille	458
Tape	332
Large Print	212

Media Center volunteers filled 95 percent of the requests for large print, 85 percent of the tape requests and 25 percent of the braille requests.

## VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DIVISION

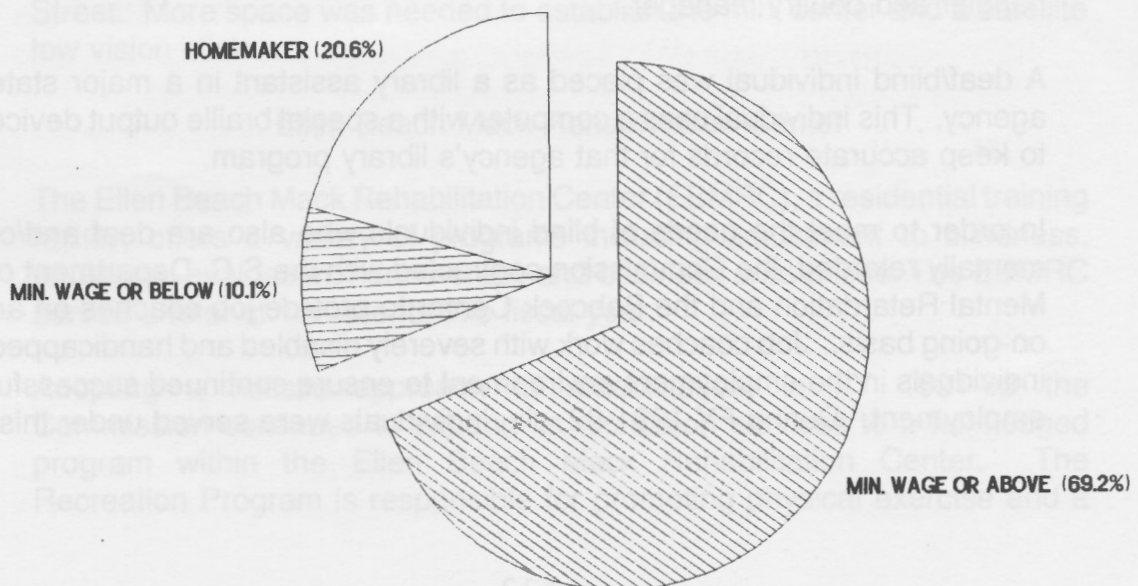
The Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the S.C. Commission for the Blind provides assistance to blind and severely visually impaired clients in securing productive employment and achieving economic independence.

A variety of services are available to assist eligible South Carolinians in obtaining or maintaining employment: job development and placement, medical treatment, psychological and vocational counseling, independent living skills training, vocational training, occupational tools and equipment and rehabilitation engineering services. Vocational rehabilitation counselors work with each client to develop an Individualized Written Rehabilitation Program (IWRP) which identifies services that will help the client achieve his/her vocational objective.

In federal fiscal year 1991-92, the Commission met 100 percent of its rehabilitation goal. Cases closed as successfully rehabilitated totaled 286. Of this number, 198 or 69 percent were closed with earnings at or above the federal minimum wage. By definition, this refers to those clients who earn at least \$4.25 per hour and work a minimum of 20 hours per week. There were 29 individuals or 10 percent with earnings below minimum wage and 59 individuals or 21 percent closed as homemakers or unpaid family workers.

### SUCCESSFULLY REHABILITATED

TOTAL - 286 CASES





The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Division of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind has been ranked number one in the nation for the percentage of blind and severely visually impaired individuals successfully rehabilitated during federal fiscal year 1990-91 (October 1, 1990 - September 30, 1991). In FY 1990-91, the SC Commission for the Blind VR Division closed 311 cases. Of that number, 90 percent or 280 individuals were closed as successfully rehabilitated. "Successfully rehabilitated" refers to individuals who have received all services necessary to reach their vocational goals and who have been employed successfully for a minimum of 60 days.

The Commission was compared with 26 other states and territories with separate, specialized programs for the blind. The remaining states have combined programs serving individuals with other physical or mental disabilities in addition to blindness. Therefore, comparative figures are not available for these agencies.

The VR Division of the S.C. Commission for the Blind made significant gains in its program as compared to other separate programs for the blind within the eight-state southeastern region (Kentucky, Florida, North Carolina, and Mississippi). The SCCB had the only program within the region to report an increase in the number of individuals successfully rehabilitated: 280 for FY 1990-91 as compared to 233 for FY 1989-90. This represents a 17 percent increase as compared to an overall decrease in the number of successfully rehabilitated individuals for the region.

Examples of jobs blind South Carolinians obtained as a result of vocational rehabilitation services this fiscal year are: computer programmer, electrical engineer, teacher, lawyer, radio broadcaster, chaplain, customer service representative, cashier, mold maker, brick mason's helper, materials handler and poultry manager.

A deaf/blind individual was placed as a library assistant in a major state agency. This individual uses a computer with a special braille output device to keep accurate records for that agency's library program.

In order to meet the needs of blind individuals who also are deaf and/or mentally retarded, the Commission contracted with the S.C. Department of Mental Retardation and the Babcock Center to provide job coaches on an on-going basis. Job coaches work with severely disabled and handicapped individuals in the employment environment to ensure continued successful employment. During FY 1991-92, six individuals were served under this

program, and three were placed in jobs (one as a food service worker, and two as assembly workers).

Rehabilitation counselors use the Agency's Transportation Program to transport clients to each of our 10 district offices for initial interviews, counseling and to receive other necessary rehabilitation services. This approach affords counselors more time to meet with their clients and enables the Agency to save travel funds previously used by counselors traveling to client residences.

In-service training funds were obtained through a grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration to conduct two special seminars for rehabilitation staff. The first seminar, conducted by the Department of Ophthalmology of the Medical College of Charleston, was held December 1991 in Charleston and provided staff training in the areas of anatomy, pathology and physiology of the eye. The second seminar will be conducted this fall in Greenville and will address the provision of low vision services. The grant also provides funds for rehabilitation staff to obtain individualized training as may be required to meet their specialized needs.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Division is in the process of decentralizing services in an effort to provide them in the communities where our clients live. Clients now can receive independent living skills training at our mini centers on the campus of the S.C. School for the Deaf and Blind in Spartanburg and in our Florence district office. This enables clients to receive this training locally, rather than having to come to our Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center in Columbia for an extended period.

In order to provide expanded services to the Pee Dee area, the agency moved its Florence office to a larger building located at 825 West Evans Street. More space was needed to establish the mini center and a satellite low vision clinic.

#### Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center

The Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center (EBMRC), a residential training facility, offers a variety of programs including adjustment to blindness, vocational evaluation, horti-therapy and business enterprises. The EBMRC served a total of 137 clients this fiscal year.

Adopting a holistic approach to rehabilitation, in FY 1991-92 the Commission continued to expand its recreation services to a full-fledged program within the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center. The Recreation Program is responsible for promoting physical exercise and a



healthy lifestyle for SCCB clients, many of whom were sedentary prior to coming to the rehabilitation center. This component also will develop recreation programs for Commission staff.

The EBMRC conducted its 15th Annual High School Summer Program; 31 students participated. This program assists high school sophomores, juniors and seniors in making the transition from school to the world of work. Students attend for three consecutive summers with each year building upon skills taught the previous year.

The High School Summer Program has a work experience component that finds part-time summer jobs for students who have mastered adjustment to blindness, mobility and independent living skills. During the 1991-92 summer initiative, four students held jobs in a variety of settings: disc-jockey at WQLX Radio Station, assistant at the American Red Cross, child care assistant at Washington Street United Methodist Church and assistant at the Specialty Tool & Die Company.

The EBMRC also houses the Commission's low vision clinic. This clinic provided 106 clients with diagnostic evaluations of low vision needs and training in the appropriate use of magnifiers, glasses and other aids designed to maximize clients' remaining vision. Agency clients are provided these services at no cost; private citizens no longer are being served.

The Commission's satellite low vision clinic in Charleston served 86 clients. Satellite clinics in Spartanburg and Walterboro served 144 and 52 clients respectively.

The Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center's Mini Center has been established on the grounds of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind to provide an abbreviated approach to adjustment to blindness services. Individuals attending the Mini Center are those clients who have chosen to enter a day program as opposed to a residential program. This may be due to extenuating circumstances which would prevent them from residing at a facility. Classes are taught in the areas of Home and Personal Management, Orientation & Mobility, Braille and Communications. The Mini Center served 44 clients during fiscal year 1991-92.

#### Business Enterprise Program

As the State Licensing Agency for the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Program, the South Carolina Commission for the Blind operates the Business Enterprise Program (BEP). BEP increases the opportunity for blind individuals to achieve economic independence and productive



employment by training them in all aspects of merchandising and customer service and by placing them in a business enterprise of their own.

While offering remunerative employment for South Carolina's legally blind and visually impaired citizens, BEP provides public and private locations with a high quality food service. This service boosts employee morale in municipal, state, federal and private buildings. Our interstate vending operations provide a much needed service to travelers and tourists on South Carolina highways.

Despite the general slow down in the economy, BEP continued to grow during FY 1991-92. A temporary location was opened at the South Carolina Educational Television's new facility. When this facility is completed, a permanent food service will be placed there with the ability to feed approximately 60 people at the new day care center. Also, a new concept, the vending route, was introduced. This takes in several buildings that individually would not provide gainful employment for a blind licensed vendor, but when put together as a vending route, provides a blind person an opportunity to earn a good living. This was done with the S. C. Retirement System building, the Public Service Commission building and the State Museum.

Vending facilities represent gainful employment and self-sufficiency for blind licensed vendors; they become taxpayers, not tax consumers. Blind licensed vendors are independent business persons whose employment is accomplished without the creation of new state jobs.

The Business Enterprise Program now has 121 vending operations throughout the state with a sales volume of \$7,559,860. Blind licensed vendors paid \$308,985 in state sales taxes in FY 1991-92.

BEP generated a total of 186 jobs, 121 blind licensed vendors, plus 65 assistants. During the past year vendors and assistants collectively earned \$3,332,146, which helped to boost the state's economy.

The \$999,644 in revenues generated by this payroll has been applied to the tax base of federal, state, county and municipal governments. Additionally, South Carolina blind licensed vendors purchased in excess of \$3,956,595 from wholesalers and suppliers in FY 1991-92. Purchases from suppliers such as Coke, Pepsi, Lance, etc. have a multiplier effect and help create additional jobs. South Carolina realized a total \$7,288,741 economic benefit from the vendors and assistants, \$3,332,146 payroll combined with \$3,956,595 in purchases.

## Client Transportation Program

The Client Transportation Program, a sub-component of the Property Management Unit, became operational November 1, 1991 in the Pee Dee area. Initially, the Agency served 10 counties: Horry, Marion, Florence, Darlington, Lee, Sumter, Williamsburg, Clarendon, Calhoun and Orangeburg. The Pee Dee area is served by five vans stationed in Orangeburg, Sumter, Manning, Florence and Conway. On January 6, 1992, the service in the Upstate began with six additional vans. Counties served include Edgefield, Greenwood, Anderson, Oconee, Pickens, Greenville and Spartanburg. Other counties added to the system include Union, York, Cherokee, Georgetown, Charleston, Dorchester, Berkeley, Beaufort, Jasper and Laurens. Service to Union County was a combined effort of the City of Union, Union County and the SCCB with the City of Union and Union County paying for the labor cost of the vehicle operator.

During FY 1991-92 the 18 vans, four of which are equipped with wheelchair lifts, assigned to the Transportation Department traveled 164,000 miles and transported 5,722 clients. The transportation services covered medical appointments, job interviews, office visits, outreach training programs, employment and various functions sponsored or cosponsored by the agency.

This program is administrated by a manager, a clerical support specialist, two coordinators and 15 vehicle operators.

## Disability Determination

The Disability Determination Unit received 749 claims in fiscal year 1991-92. This is a 56 percent increase over the previous year. Determinations were made on 710 claims, which was a 26 percent increase over the previous year. The Federal Review component reported an annual accuracy rate of 98 percent for the unit. The Unit makes determination of disability in which blindness is the primary disabling factor.

All claims were evaluated for referral to the Commission's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Division, Children's Services or Prevention of Blindness Program for possible services. There were 343 referrals or a 44 percent increase over the previous fiscal year. The Unit began VR referral monitoring in March 1992 in an effort to determine the effectiveness of the referral process. Counselors are given 30 days to contact the claimant and to begin the process of determining the client's eligibility for VR services.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

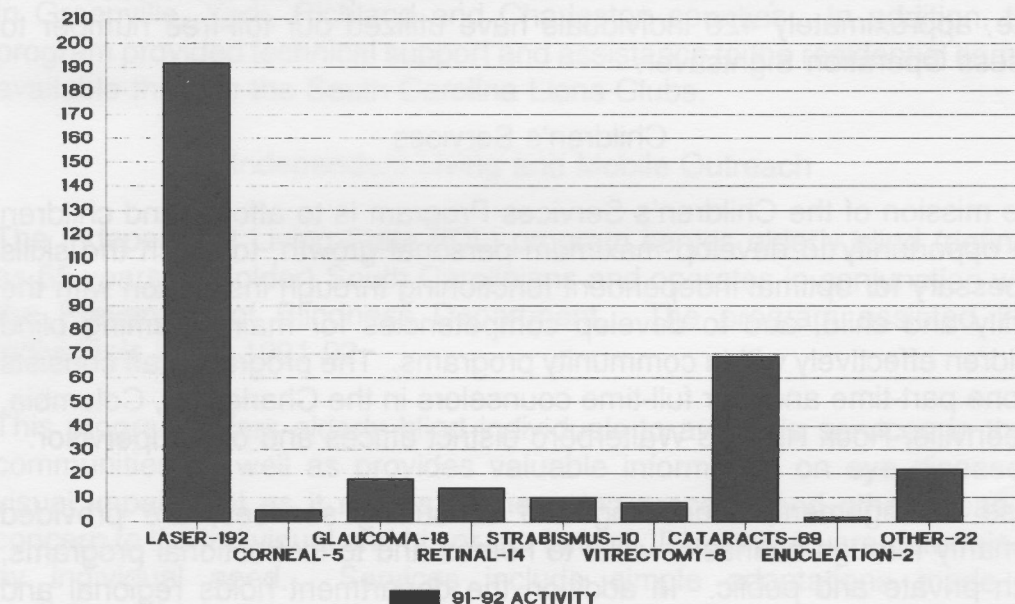
The Community Services Division provides services which maximize the emotional, social, educational and functional independence of blind adults and children within the state of South Carolina. Services are provided in the areas of Prevention of Blindness, Children's Services, Mobile Outreach and Independent Living.

### Prevention of Blindness

During FY 1991-92, the Prevention of Blindness Department provided 1,560 persons with services that either aided in the restoration of their sight or prevented them from losing any additional sight. The department provides eye-related medical services to persons who otherwise could not afford the prescribed treatments.

Individuals in this program are provided with eye examinations and follow-up visits for ocular conditions that could lead to blindness without prompt treatment. The department sponsored 252 eye examinations and 651 follow-up examinations. Approximately, 91 pairs of glasses and specialized contact lenses were provided for persons who would be blind without them.

Ocular surgeries and treatments sponsored to prevent blindness during this fiscal year included: Laser procedures, Cataracts, Glaucoma procedures, Retinal detachments, Strabismus, Vitrectomy, Corneal transplants, Enucleation, etc. A total of 340 surgeries and treatments were provided.





Support groups for persons diagnosed with Macular Degeneration were formed across South Carolina during FY 1991-92. Individuals, who suffer from visual impairment, are given a way to collectively solve problems through the sharing of experiences, exposure to new independent living aids and information on available community resources and SCCB services. Meetings are held once a month in Myrtle Beach, Charleston, Florence, Greenville and Sumter.

In October 1991, the SHOPPERVISION campaign was launched. This program was a collaborative effort among the SCCB, the Councils of Telephone Pioneers, South Carolina Macular Degeneration and six store chains in the state. Bi-Lo, Harris Teeter, Piggly Wiggly, Kroger, Winn Dixie and Parisian cooperated by placing low vision magnifiers in their stores for use by visually impaired shoppers. These magnifiers afford visually impaired persons the opportunity to shop independently, thus enhancing their quality of life. Through this initiative, more than 200 stores across the state are equipped with low vision magnifiers.

In the Fall of 1991, a consortium of leading ophthalmologists, optometrists, educators, Greenville Urban League and staff from the SCCB was formed to study the impact of diabetic eye disease that people with diabetes may develop. As a result, preventing unnecessary loss of sight due to diabetes-related complications became the goal of OPERATION SIGHTSAVER. Under this new program, visual examinations have been made available to any South Carolina resident who has been diagnosed with diabetes. The most exciting feature of this program is the management of diabetic eye disease, which can prevent blindness in up to 80 percent of the cases. To date, approximately 420 individuals have utilized our toll-free number to access Operation Sightsaver.

### Children's Services

The mission of the Children's Services Program is to afford blind children the opportunity to develop maximum personal growth, to teach the skills necessary for optimal independent functioning through instruction with the family and child, and to develop competencies for mainstreaming blind children effectively within community programs. The program staff consists of one part-time and four full-time counselors in the Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, Rock Hill And Walterboro district offices and one supervisor.

Case management, counseling and consulting services, are provided primarily through counselor visits to homes and to instructional programs, both private and public. In addition the department holds regional and

statewide support meetings and training workshops for parents and other professionals, as well as instructional programs for children.

During fiscal year 1991-92, the counselors served an average of 480 active clients each quarter. The program received 181 new referrals and referred 22, 16-year-old clients to the SCCB Rehabilitation Program.

The Children's Services counselors served on the Total Quality Education Councils created by the State Department of Education and continued to serve on interagency councils established by P.L. 99-457 (BabyNet) in each of the five regions. Other special events included disability awareness workshops with the Girl Scout Jamboree, participation in community children's health fairs, the DD Council State Fair exhibit and the United States Association of Blind Athletes National Youth Championships held for the first time in South Carolina.

The annual statewide spring weekend workshop for families of children who are blind was held April 24-26, 1992 in the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center. 47 parents from across the state attended sessions on preschool program options, orientation and mobility, pediatric ophthalmology, advocacy and technology while teachers, counselors and more than 60 volunteers entertained clients and their siblings. This annual opportunity to volunteer continues to be a major philanthropic initiative of the Epsilon Chi Chapter of the Delta Gamma Sorority of the University of South Carolina.

During the summer months, the Children's Services Program sponsored week-long life skills camps again in cooperation with community programs in Greenville, York, Richland and Charleston counties. In addition, the program provided technical support and assistance to the residential camps available through the South Carolina Lions Clubs.

### Independent Living and Mobile Outreach

The Independent Living-State (IDL) program serves elderly blind (defined as 55 years and older) South Carolinians and operates in conjunction with the Prevention of Blindness Department. The program assisted 738 individuals in FY 1991-92.

This program refers elderly blind individuals to available services in their communities as well as provides valuable information on eye diseases, visual impairment as it relates to the aging process, and other areas of concern to the individual and his or her family. IDL services are determined by individual need. Services include simple adaptations made in participants' homes and instruction in skills of daily living, or participants

may receive more comprehensive training through one of our three Mobile Outreach programs. The goal of our independent living program is help the elderly blind individuals adjust to their blindness and, through the necessary training and adaptations, live the most independent and rewarding lives possible.

The provision of community based services in the area of independent living is the function of our Mobile Outreach programs. Instruction in daily living skills, adjustment to blindness and orientation and mobility are provided. Three units located in Columbia, Greenville and Charleston provided mobile outreach services to 154 blind and severely visually impaired individuals in FY 1991-92. This program affords the older blind population the opportunity to remain independent within their home environment, thus removing the fear of becoming dependent on others. Approximately 44% of the clients served were 55 years or older. These community based programs also offer skills of daily living to other individuals who are unable to attend training at the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center in Columbia.

Central locations are selected within communities, and in most instances churches have assisted by allowing us to use their facilities. Training was offered to individuals residing in Laurens, Hampton-Estill, Georgetown, Anderson and Florence.



# **S.C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND**

**FISCAL YEAR 1991-92**

## **SOURCES OF FUNDS**

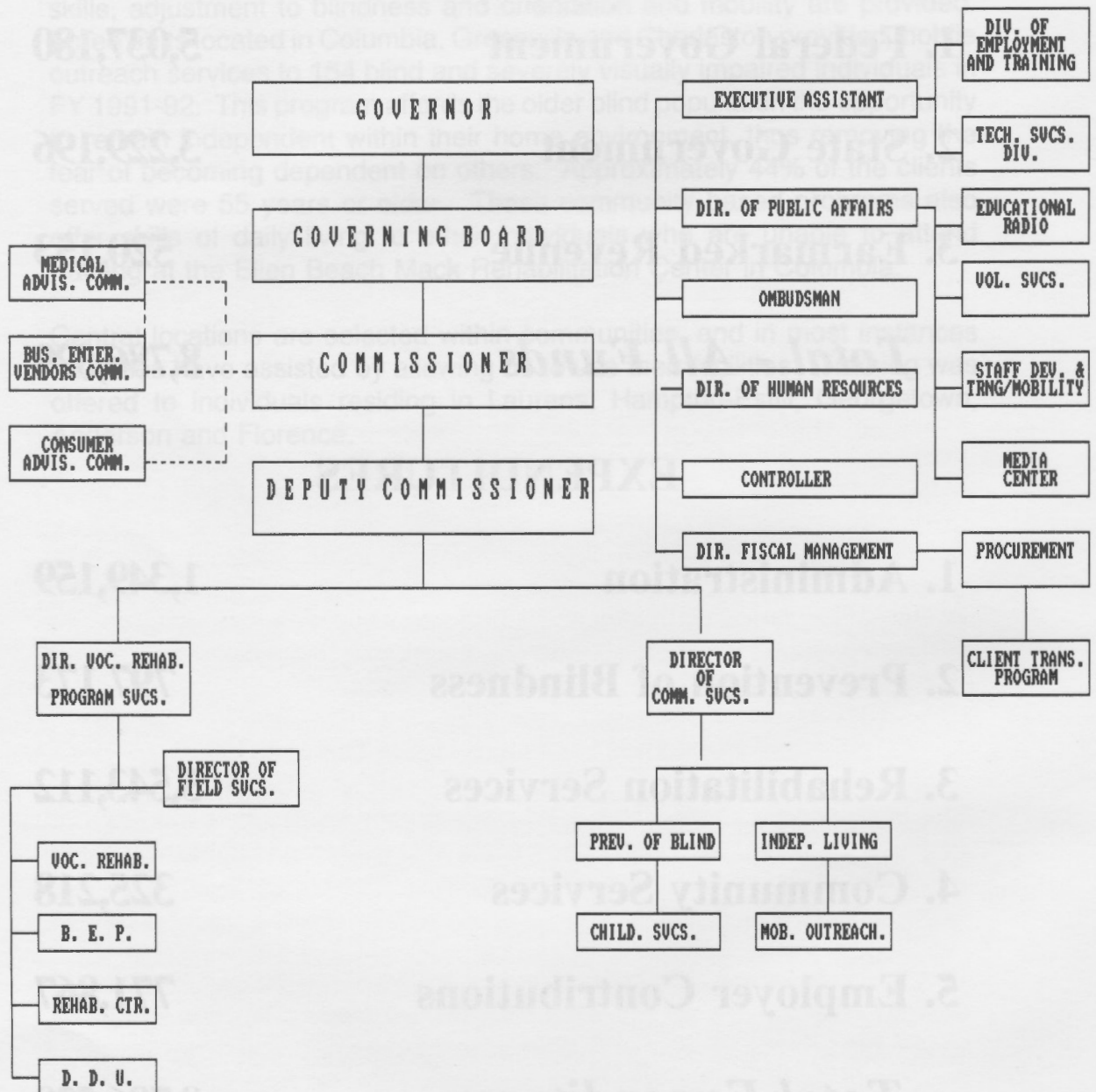
<b>1. Federal Government</b>	<b>5,037,180</b>
<b>2. State Government</b>	<b>3,229,196</b>
<b>3. Earmarked Revenue</b>	<b>520,153</b>
<b><i>Total - All Funds</i></b>	<b>8,786,529</b>

## **EXPENDITURES**

<b>1. Administration</b>	<b>1,349,159</b>
<b>2. Prevention of Blindness</b>	<b>797,173</b>
<b>3. Rehabilitation Services</b>	<b>5,543,112</b>
<b>4. Community Services</b>	<b>325,218</b>
<b>5. Employer Contributions</b>	<b>771,867</b>
<b><i>Total Expenditures</i></b>	<b>8,786,529</b>

# S. C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY

<b>TOLL FREE INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>1-800-922-2222</b>
Commissioner.....	734-7522
Deputy Commissioner.....	734-7542
ExecutiveAssistant.....	734-7543
Ombudsman.....	734-7549
Accounting.....	734-7533
Personnel.....	734-7930
Division of Public Affairs.....	734-7548
Educational Radio for the Blind.....	734-7555
VolunteerServices.....	734-7557
Media Center.....	734-7577
Vocational Rehabilitation.....	734-7526
Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center.....	734-7590
Business Enterprise Program.....	734-7540
Client Transportation Program.....	734-7888
Disability Determination.....	734-7551
Community Services Division.....	734-7581
Prevention of Blindness.....	734-7547
Children's Services.....	734-7553





D N T L B ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY S.  
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